

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, On Monday, Americans throughout our great Nation will pause to honor those men and women who nobly sacrificed their lives to protect the safety and liberty of their fellow citizens.

Originally designated as "Decoration Day" to honor Veterans of the Civil War, and first observed on May 30, 1868, or modern Memorial Day now recognizes those one-million, three hundred and twelve-thousand, eight-hundred and ten heroes who died in defense of our Country in one or more of her conflicts: the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War.

To the extent that we now enjoy the many rights inherent in a democracy, as well as those freedoms and benefits that we as a self-governing people bestow upon ourselves and our posterity, we owe great thanks to those defenders of democracy who died in war, so that we might live in peace.

We should also take time on this Memorial Day to honor all those Americans who have ever served in our Armed Forces, and to those great Americans who continue to volunteer to defend our Nation to this day. Without their continued commitment, courage and contributions, we would not enjoy the opportunity to be here, in this great land, reveling in the freedom that their noble deeds have allowed us to celebrate.

We should also take time today to reaffirm our commitment to our soldiers and our veterans: all men and women who voluntarily serve their Nation in the Armed Forces have earned the greatest respect, courtesy, and care that we can provide, and we as a Congress should never hesitate to deliver those benefits to our Veterans.

As we welcome this new Memorial Day in America, in peace and democracy, we solemnly acknowledge that the sacrifices of our Veterans have not been in vain, and will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBBINS AIR FORCE TANKERS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the 99th Air Refueling Squadron from Warner Robbins, Georgia. They were recently named as the military's top tanker group for the third consecutive year.

The "Ramrods," part of the 19th Air Refueling group, are the only unit in the Air Force's

50 year history to win the General Carl A. Spatz Trophy for three consecutive years. Since 1975, this trophy has recognized the best air refueling squadron within the Air Force.

This refueling group has worked hard to earn this prestigious, national award. They were one of the most needed tanker groups in 2000. The "Ramrods" flew air refueling missions on every major deployment last year. Along with these deployment missions they had to carry out their normal exercises and long term troop commitments to areas such as the middle east.

The Warner Robbins 99th squadron was called upon to fly top-ranking Air Force and civilian officials around the globe, and they provided refueling support to military units in the Middle East after last fall's horrible terrorist attack on the USS *Cole*. The National Defense University selected the squadron to represent the Air Force on four high visibility missions around the world.

It is easy to see that these missions are very important in the military strength that this nation enjoys. This group is to be congratulated for their hard work, skill, and accomplishments in the Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO THE PARISH OF ST. ELIZABETH SETON

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on May 29th, 2001, a celebration will occur in my congressional district that is most noteworthy, and that I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. On this very special day, the Parish of St. Elizabeth Seton in the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

With the population of Roman Catholic families growing in the 1970's, it was clear that there was a need for a new parish in the Ridgebury section of Ridgefield. Father Francis Medynski was appointed by Bishop Walter Curtis to re-configure the then existing parish of St. Mary's. After nearly two years of planning and consultation, Fr. Medynski's task was completed and he was named Pastor of the new St. Elizabeth Seton parish in April, 1976.

The new church had to make due with precious, few resources, calling on parishioners for every type of service. For example, everyone pitched in for a daylong cleaning effort of the temporary rectory/parish center on May 18, 1976.

In the beginning, the church met at the Ridgebury Elementary School, but it was clear from the start that the construction of a permanent church home was necessary. Efforts began immediately. Committees were established to hire architects and contractors, fund-

raising events were organized and parish programs were set. And, at last, on September 20, 1977, the church's official groundbreaking took place. Construction was steady, and a little over a year later, on December 23, 1978, the first Mass in the new sanctuary was celebrated. The formal dedication occurred on May 29, 1979.

Over the past 25 years, the church has continued to grow. The 371 original families in the parish have grown to approximately 1,000. The Religious Education program has expanded to the point of needing to build a new Parish Center that was dedicated in October, 1988. The Center also houses the church administrative offices and includes several meeting rooms for parish use.

In 1996, Fr. Medynski retired, and Father Joseph Prince then came to lead the church, which he has done with dedication and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor all the parishioners and church leadership alike who have contributed a guiding hand in the creation and growth of the Parish of St. Elizabeth Seton. Today, we celebrate their commitment to their faith, a commitment measured not only words but in their inspiring deeds. On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I extend our congratulations to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and wish all God's blessings in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN MONTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I am proud to honor the diverse Asian Pacific American community I represent in San Francisco, which includes people whose heritage spans the globe—including Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai and Hmong.

The Asian Pacific American population is growing at rapid rates nationally and this trend has been particularly significant in the Eighth Congressional District of California. The Asian Pacific American population in San Francisco has increased by 5.3% during the 1990's. The District I am honored to represent now has the fourth highest Asian Pacific American population of any U.S. congressional district.

While we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we must redouble our commitment to fighting discrimination. Recent studies have documented a troubling increase in negative attitudes toward and hostile acts against Asian Pacific Americans by portions of the American public. There are legitimate concerns about the governmental policies of some Asian countries. These concerns, however, do not and should not reflect on Asian Pacific Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The district I represent, with its vibrant and diverse Asian Pacific American community, is a national treasure. We are all enriched by the contributions of the Asian Pacific American community, which shares responsibility for the success and achievements of our country, deepening our lives and strengthening our neighborhoods with its strong family values, proud work ethic and achievements in a wide variety of professions. We need to continue to recognize the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans through education, curriculum and other forms of public awareness.

San Francisco became a magnificent cosmopolitan success story because of its diversity. As we celebrate Asian Pacific Islanders Month, let us renew our commitment to overcoming misperceptions of Asian Pacific American people and culture, so that the inspiring and fascinating culture that I experience everyday in my congressional district can be known and celebrated by all.

PETER INDALL KNOWS HIS
GEOGRAPHY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate an outstanding student from my state of New Mexico, Peter Indall. Peter is a fourteen-year-old eighth-grade student from St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe who recently represented New Mexico in the 2001 National Geographic Bee. This is not, however, his first time to participate in the National Geographic Bee—Peter represented New Mexico in the 2000 event.

Peter is a geography enthusiast; he believes "geography is not just about memorizing information—it is learning about other cultures and their history." Peter's parents, Jon and Mary Indall, credit their son's fifth-grade teacher, Connie Zimpleman at E.J. Martinez Elementary School, for inciting his son's passion to study geography. I know that his fifth grade teacher, as well as the rest of his instructors and fellow New Mexico citizens, are extremely proud of his accomplishments and are honored to have such a distinguished young man represent their state.

I have always placed an emphasis on education, and I am so pleased that Peter is excelling in his studies. His achievements have brought much pride to his family, school and community. I wish Peter and his family the best as this extraordinary young man continues to shine and stand out.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATIE
BENGHAUSER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katie Benghauser on her 11 years of volunteer service to Mount Hope Elementary School in Lansing, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, we are quick sometimes to condemn the acts of aggression, and not so

quick sometimes to celebrate the acts of kindness that happen in America. Katie Benghauser has shown this type of kindness by volunteering at Mount Hope Elementary School to make a difference in the lives of her children and the entire community. Katie has assisted in grant writing projects, event planning, and book fairs. There was no project too small for Katie to help with.

This act of kindness must not go without recognition. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Katie Benghauser for reminding us that community service is an important part of American life.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM T.
POPIELARCHEK, LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS POLICE OFFICER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a fallen member of the congressional community whose sudden passing reminds us how precious and fragile life is. On Monday, May 14, 2001, Officer Adam T. Popielarchek, a 17-year veteran of the Library of Congress Police, lost his life in a traffic accident near his home in Mechanicsville, Maryland. Officer Popielarchek's death saddens not only his own family, but also his fellow Library Police officers and numerous other employees of the Library, where he had embarked upon a second career after retiring as a lieutenant from the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department in 1983.

Millions of people visit the Capitol complex each year, and hundreds of thousands of them visit America's national treasure, the Library of Congress, whose buildings also grace Capitol Hill directly across the street. Although most Library visitors, and perhaps some employees, may never have known Adam Popielarchek's name, they and indeed we all, owe him a debt of gratitude. It was Mr. Popielarchek's job to help assure the safety and security of Library visitors, staff and collections, and he did it superbly every day. His colleagues have amply demonstrated since his death that they held Adam Popielarchek in the highest esteem, both personally and professionally, and that he is sorely missed.

Officer Popielarchek is also sorely missed by his widow, Maryellen, and by his sons, Thomas and Adam W.; his daughters, Tina and Tammy; his mother, Angelene; five brothers; two sisters; and by the many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and countless friends he leaves behind across the Washington, D.C., area, in Southern Maryland, in Pennsylvania, where he was born 60 years ago, and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, in this time of sorrow for the Popielarchek family and the entire congressional community, let us pause and reflect on the life of a valued and wonderful man, Adam T. Popielarchek, who toiled among us here, gave us his best and left us far too soon.

DON LEEBERN: A WINNER IN BOTH
ARENAS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Donald M. Leebern, Jr. a man whom, either knowingly or unknowingly, has touched and blessed the lives of many people in the state of Georgia. He is known by those closest to him as modest, personable and self-deprecating; however, "on field" or in the business world, he is a proven winner who works to succeed.

Don attended the University of Georgia where he played football, and started on both offense and defense. He played on the Bulldog's 1959 SEC Championship team that went on to win the Orange Bowl.

Earlier this year, "Big" Don, as friends affectionately call him, was inducted into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame.

Pat Dye, a teammate of Leebern's at UGA and also former Head football coach at Auburn University, had this to say of Leebern, "it didn't make any difference, practice or playing. He was always full speed. He absolutely would not lose. He'd find a way to win." Pat Dye was absolutely correct.

Standing 6 feet 3 inches tall, Leebern was picked by the Dallas Texans in the first ever American Football League draft. As he was getting ready to debut in the AFL, his father passed away. Instead of pursuing what would have been a career of fame and fortune in professional football, Don decided to return home to Columbus and take over the family business, Georgia Crown Distributing Company.

It is not surprising what happened to the business. Georgia Crown Distributing Company has grown into one of the top 500 private companies in America. He built the small struggling wholesale beverage distributor into a thriving and diversified regional business, making him one of the most influential people in Georgia. He served on the Georgia Athletic Board and is a member of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, which he chaired in 1994 and 1995. Leebern has been able to use his influence to better his community by, among other things, getting state funding for a basketball arena and physical education building at Columbus State—the Lumpkin Center.

The University of Georgia's Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall is where future Georgia football legends practice. It is also where Georgia's football history is housed, from Frank Sinkwich and Herschel Walker's Heisman Trophies, to photos of legendary Coach Wally Butts and jerseys of former Bulldog quarterback Fran Tarkenton. But there is only one name that anyone will see over the locker room at the Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall, specifically they will see, "The Donald Leebern, Jr. Memorial Locker Room." Certainly, it's a fitting reminder of all the good things Don has done for Georgia and the impact he's still having on future generations.

Don Leebern has certainly made a significant contribution to the state of Georgia and his life has certainly been a story of success. Congratulations, Don for a life of service. I applaud you for all you have done and wish you many more years of success in the arena.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI JEROME R.
MALINO

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor for me today to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the celebration of two very significant milestones in the life of Rabbi Jerome R. Malino of Danbury, Connecticut. During the weekend of June 1st through the 3rd, the United Jewish Center of Danbury, as well as the entire Danbury community, will be celebrating Rabbi Malino's 90th birthday, and marking his 66th year of continuous religious, spiritual, cultural, civic, and educational leadership for the people of Danbury.

Rabbi Malino has had a deep, wide and profound impact on the people and the City of Danbury. Certainly he could have served as Rabbi in any of the major cities of our nation, but he chose Danbury as a young man and elected to stay with us for nearly seven decades. He, and his wonderful wife, Rhoda, made that decision out of a great commitment to serve not only as Rabbi to a congregation, but as Rabbi of an entire community—through all of the ups and downs, problems and blessings, that come to the life of a community. Rabbi Malino's decision was a perfect fit, and a great blessing to us all, 66 years ago, and it remains a perfect fit today—all to the tremendous benefit of Danbury and its people.

Rabbi Malino has been active in nearly every aspect of Danbury life. He served as a member of the Board of Education for twenty years, including ten years as its Chairman. He was active with the Danbury Music Center and the Danbury Concert Association for more than two decades. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the local anti-poverty agency, and many other local human service organizations. For several years, Rabbi Malino served also as chaplain of the Federal Corrections Institution in Danbury.

While he officially retired in 1981, Rabbi Malino remains active today at the United Jewish Center, and continues his work as Rabbi Emeritus. As was said in a book of essays published in his honor, "His lifelong love of Torah and learning are evident in his eloquent sermons and writings, whether his discourse is on history, art, philosophy, or Bible. To this day, his schedule is as full as ever, for he willingly shares his wisdom with all who seek it, whether congregant, colleague, or rabbinical student at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, where he has taught for many years."

Rabbi Malino is a man of conviction and commitment. This dedication, coupled with his deep religious faith, have made him a beloved leader and citizen of Danbury, our State of Connecticut, and, indeed, our entire country. As United Jewish Center Rabbi Bradd Boxman said recently, "Rabbi Malino is a legend not only in Danbury, but nationwide. He is a treasure to the Jewish people." I would only add, he is a treasure to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is both a personal pleasure and privilege to honor Rabbi Malino, a man I have known well for over 25 years, and have

the privilege of calling a close personal friend. On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I extend to Rabbi Malino best wishes for a most joyous birthday celebration, and our expression of deep gratitude for all of his many contributions to his congregation, the people of Danbury, and our nation. thank you, Rabbi.

HONORING RICHARD AND
BARBARA SKLAR

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, next week my constituents in San Francisco are gathering to celebrate the homecoming of two very special people, Richard and Barbara Sklar. Ambassador Richard Sklar returns to San Francisco from 5 years in Southeastern Europe where he coordinated programs with the European Union, World Bank, IMF and other donor countries to promote the economic reconstruction and strategic reform of eight Balkan countries. Now home in San Francisco, Richard will oversee the building of new energy plants for the State of California and build a private international mediation program.

Barbara Sklar, an accomplished artist for the past 35 years, has shown her work in galleries and group shows from New York to California. For the past five years, Barbara has worked in Bosnia, New York and Rome, and has exhibited her work from Florence to Sarajevo. An accredited specialist on aging, Barbara has shared her expertise the several Bay Area communities through her service at the Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco.

Richard and Barbara Sklar are being honored May 30, 2001 by San Francisco's Delancey Street Foundation, a residential rehabilitation community that provides housing and training to thousands of ex-convicts and recovering addicts at no cost to the client or taxpayers. At that time, Delancey Street's Crossroads Cafe will show Barbara's watercolor exhibit "Round Trip," a portion of the proceeds of which will assist in making it possible for hundreds of people to be trained in the hospitality field.

The Sklar's service to our country and our community is indeed a cause for celebration.

HONORING CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL ANDREW RENDON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is an emotional day for the public school system in Santa Fe, New Mexico, as we say goodbye to an educator who is dear to our hearts. Today, we say farewell to Capital High School Principal Andrew Rendon, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to New Mexico public schools.

Mr. Rendon began his career as a 21-year-old student teacher at Robertson High School

in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Additionally, he spent two years at West Las Vegas Junior High, also in Las Vegas. Mr. Rendon then moved into the Santa Fe school system, teaching history at Capshaw and Alameda middle schools, and one year at Santa Fe High School. After his promotion to the Assistant Principal of Alameda Middle School, he transferred to Capital High, where he has been the principal for the last ten years.

The challenges facing Capital High have mounted over the past several years. The enrollment of the school has quickly risen to more than 1,400 students. In fact, Capital High is larger than Mr. Rendon's hometown community of Chama, New Mexico. In 1998–99 Capital High's dropout rate of 11.9 percent was the highest in the district.

Mr. Rendon has embraced these challenges by taking a hands-on approach in working with students to ensure their success, despite the daily hardships these students face. He has helped the Santa Fe Public School system aggressively institute literacy programs, beginning with kindergartners, to prepare students for high school. Mr. Rendon routinely spends time every day conversing with students and spending time with them on a one-on-one level, paying close attention to the issues that students face every day. His students say Mr. Rendon is a caring, "cool" individual, who "is fair with students and doesn't play favorites." Mr. Rendon helps his students to realize the importance of a quality education, which in turn helps them to stay in school. As a result of his undying efforts, the school's TerraNova ranking has risen eight points, and the school's dropout and attendance rates have significantly improved.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the tireless efforts of one of the most committed educators, Andrew Rendon, who has dramatically impacted the lives of thousands of students. I want to thank him for his work to overcome the hardships facing educators across the state of New Mexico. Mr. Rendon will be greatly missed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDIE BLUHM
GOIK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I rise today to congratulate Edie Bluhm Goik on being named an Honorable Mention winner in the 2001 Reading Is Fundamental National Poster Contest.

The creativity Edie has shown in this program is truly admirable. The self motivation she has demonstrated is certain to serve her into the future. I'm confident that this achievement will be only one of many during Edie's school years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Edie Bluhm Goik on being named an Honorable Mention winner in the 2001 Reading Is Fundamental National Poster Contest and in wishing her future success.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES
PRESIDENTIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian, a former mayor of Taipei, captured the imagination of Taiwan voters and won Taiwan's presidency. Twelve months later, Mr. Chen has impressed the world with his leadership. At home, Chen has continued to push for greater democratic rights and accelerated economic reforms, especially banking reform. He has pledged to make his people and the world proud of Taiwan's human rights record and to do everything possible to stimulate Taiwan's domestic economy. In addition President Chen has announced on a number of occasions how he will try his best to conduct meaningful dialogues with Mainland Chinese leaders, hoping to achieve eventual reunification with the mainland.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is an open, free and democratic country, home to over 93 political parties, and virtually every level of public office in Taiwan is vigorously contested through free and fair elections. Most important of all, Taiwan is our friend and one of our most important trading partners. We wish Taiwan well, and its President good luck and good fortune on the eve of his first anniversary in office. We welcome President Chen to the U.S. and wish him the best.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN JOHNSON

HON. JAMES. H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, May 25th, a celebration will occur in my Connecticut congressional district that honors a man most deserving of our praise, respect and congratulations. Franklin Johnson of Naugatuck, Connecticut will be honored for 50 years of service to veterans, young people, his community and his country.

Born October 13, 1924, Mr. Johnson attended school in Naugatuck, graduating in 1942. Like many young men at that time, upon graduation he enlisted in the Army and saw significant action overseas, including the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach, the liberation of Paris, and the Battle of the Bulge.

Following his years of military service to our nation, Mr. Johnson returned home and graduated from Springfield College in 1951. Two other events occurred that year that reflect the character and dedication of Frank Johnson. In August, he wed the former Jeanne DeCarlo, with whom, as his beloved wife of 50 years, he has raised a family of four children, and now eight grandchildren. That same year, he started his career at Naugatuck High School, where he eventually served for thirty-eight years as a teacher, guidance counselor and administrator.

At Naugatuck High School, Mr. Johnson paid tribute to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces, especially those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Each year he has conducted a ceremony

honoring our fallen heroes on the Friday before Memorial Day. This Memorial Day will mark his 50th such service.

Mr. Johnson has served as Post Commander of American Legion Post No. 17 in Naugatuck and has been a mainstay in Connecticut in keeping alive the memory of all servicemen and women. Since 1988, he has served as Chairman of the Naugatuck Veterans Council, which sponsors the annual Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade, recognized as one of the finest such events in the entire United States.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of Frank Johnson's nearly 77 years, he has dedicated himself to the advancement of Naugatuck's young people, to his fellow veterans across the nation, to his community and to his family. He has set an exemplary standard for all of the rest of us to follow.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I commend Frank Johnson on his service to his country and thank him for his great contributions to securing and improving the quality of life for us all.

HONORING HOWARD AND MARY
LESTER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Howard and Mary Lester for their longstanding entrepreneurial and philanthropic commitment to the San Francisco community. The Lesters are being honored on May 30, 2001 by San Francisco's Delancey Street Foundation, a residential rehabilitation community that provides housing and training to thousands of ex-convicts and recovering addicts at no cost to the client or taxpayers. Delancey Street will thank the Lesters for their generosity in donating furniture, dishes and flatware to the foundation's Crossroads Café, making it possible for hundreds of people to be trained in the hospitality field.

Howard Lester purchased Williams-Sonoma, Inc. in 1978. As Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair, he built Williams-Sonoma, The Pottery Barn, Hold Everything, and Chambers into phenomenal success stories. In April 2001, he turned over his CEO responsibilities, but remains Chairman of the Board. In addition, he has committed to sharing his expertise and success with young people through his endowment of the Lester Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of California at Berkeley.

Mary Lester is a longtime philanthropist whose activism with various nonprofit boards and community organizations has greatly enriched the City of San Francisco. She chaired the Raising Hope charity campaign, raising millions of dollars for cancer research programs at the University of California at San Francisco Medical Center.

I am proud to join my constituents in thanking Howard and Mary Lester for their years of service. Our community has been blessed by their visions and generosity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY
AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2001

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today we continue our quest to protect the privacy of every American by cracking down on the fraud, abuse, and theft of Social Security numbers through the introduction of the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2001."

Beginning last year, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security has heard about the truly devastating effects of identity theft. Colonel and Mrs. Stevens of Maryland saw their Social Security numbers used on 33 fraudulent accounts accumulating \$113,000 of bad debt. Mr. Bob Horowitz, a single father and small business owner from my district, saw his number used to open five fraudulent credit accounts. Months and years later these victims were still spending time, money, and energy to clear their names.

This week we heard from two more of the countless number of victims who have had their identity stolen and their credit ruined. Nicole Robinson of Maryland had her personal information stolen by a worker for a business that maintained HMO data bases. Her identity thief charged \$36,000 worth of goods in three months using Nicole's hard-earned good credit. These crimes have impacted Nicole's ability to refinance her home, obtain credit, and purchase cellular phone service.

Emeka Moneme of the District of Columbia had his personal property stolen at a gym in Ohio last year. He believes the crucial piece of personal identification his thief obtained was his Social Security number. This theft resulted in 13 fraudulent accounts with a total of \$30,000 in stolen credit.

It's no wonder why, in a Wall Street Journal poll last year, respondents ranked privacy as their number one concern in the 21st century, ahead of wars, terrorism, and environmental disasters.

When Social Security numbers were created 65 years ago, their only purpose was to track a worker's earnings so that Social Security benefits could be calculated. But today, use of the Social Security number is pervasive.

We have literally developed a culture of dependence on the Social Security number. Businesses and governments use the number as the primary way of identifying

Although Social Security numbers are used for many legitimate purposes, the wide availability and easy access to this very personal information has greatly facilitated Social Security number-related crimes and generated a growing concern for privacy. According to the Federal Trade Commission, Social Security numbers are a crucial piece of information used to commit identity theft.

The occurrence of identity fraud against U.S. consumers has increased dramatically in recent years. Identity theft is considered the fastest growing financial crime in the country,

affecting an estimated 500,000–700,000 people annually. Allegations received by the Social Security Administration's Hotline involving potential fraudulent use of Social Security numbers for identity theft increased from 62,000 cases in fiscal year 1999 to over 90,000 in fiscal year 2000—almost a 50 percent increase in just one year. In fact, the Sheriff's office of Broward County, Florida, my home county, recently said that the number of reported cases of identity fraud is up 3,000 percent in the past year.

What's worse, the nightmare of identity theft continues for the victims years after their identity has been stolen. Studies show identity theft victims spend 2 years trying to remove an average \$18,000 in fraudulent charges from their credit reports. Also, victims spent an average of 175 hours and \$808 in out-of-pocket costs (not including legal fees) trying to fix their problem.

Identity theft is such a concern for consumers that two of our nation's leading insurance companies now offer policies insuring their customers from financial losses associated with identity and credit card theft. Customer surveys found that internet-related liabilities were high on the list of losses most insurance companies have yet to address. One insurer's web site included statistics from the credit reporting agency, Trans Union, who reports receiving a 15-fold increase in calls with questions or complaints about identity theft from 1992 (35,000 calls) to 1998 (554,450—over 1,500 calls per day).

Clearly, there is a need for a comprehensive law that will better protect the privacy of Social Security numbers and protect the American public from being victimized. That is why last year, I, along with Mr. MATSUI, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. KLECZKA, and other Subcommittee members introduced H.R. 4857—the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2000." This legislation took a comprehensive approach to achieve this goal by addressing the treatment of Social Security numbers in both the public and private sectors.

While H.R. 4857 was approved by the Committee on Ways and Means at the end of last year, it was not considered by the full House of Representatives before the end of the session, due to its referral to other Committees of jurisdiction who did not take action on the bill.

Today, I re-introduce the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2001." This bipartisan, comprehensive legislation is very similar to last year's bill. In the public sector, the bill would restrict the sale and public display of Social Security numbers, provide for enforcement of the provisions, and establish civil and criminal penalties for violations.

In the private sector, the bill would restrict the sale, purchase, and display of Social Security numbers, limit dissemination of Social Security numbers by credit reporting agencies, and make it more difficult for businesses to deny services if a customer refuses to provide his or her Social Security number.

Based on the thoughtful comments we have received, this new legislation reflects a small number of fair and appropriate modifications, including the following:

Since the Federal Trade Commission does not have jurisdiction over financial institutions, our bill would now authorize the U.S. Attorney General to issue regulations restricting the

sale and purchase of Social Security numbers in the private sector.

Similar to our provisions affecting the public sector, we make explicit our intent that the prohibition of sale, purchase, or display of Social Security numbers in the private sector would not apply if Social Security numbers are needed to enforce child support obligations.

To help prevent other individuals from suffering the same tragic fate as Amy Boyer, we include a new provision that prohibits a person from obtaining or using another person's Social Security number in order to locate that individual with the intent to physically injure or harm the individual or use their identity for an illegal purpose.

We have clarified the provision that would prohibit businesses from denying services to individuals who refuse to provide their Social Security number, including an exception for those businesses that are required by Federal law to submit the individual's Social Security number to the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to co-sponsor this critically important legislation. We must act now to protect the privacy of Americans' Social Security numbers and to stop identity thieves from preying on those who have spent a lifetime achieving their good credit rating.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind:

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization. I supported the vast majority of President Bush's original plan to 'Leave no child behind' because it demanded accountability for results combined with greater freedom from Washington-knows-best regulations. However, the original bipartisan program of local control was gutted in committee and the resulting bill unwisely expands the size and scope of the federal role in education.

The President's proposal to free states and school districts from thousands of burdensome federal regulations in exchange for a commitment for increased performance (also known as Straight A's), along with the proposal to allow low-income children attending failing schools to attend a private school were removed from the bill. The President's proposal to consolidate nearly 60 separate elementary and secondary education programs into flexible funding programs that states and local schools could use to meet their most pressing needs was also rejected. When they removed the pilot program for school choice, I realized that this bill would offer few new options for better scholastic opportunities for poor, inner city and rural children. If we can't offer the hope of a brighter future to the children who need it the most, then what have we accomplished?

While I support flexibility in federal funds to local school districts and school choice to allow our children to escape failing schools, I could not endorse increased federal testing requirements. In 1994, Congress passed the Improving America's Schools Act that mandated states to annually test students in reading and math in at least one grade in each of three grade ranges (3-5, 6-9, and 10-12). Implementation of these tests was to begin in the 2000-2001 school year, with a possible one-year waiver. As of January 19, 2001, only 11 states have complied with this testing requirement, 14 have largely complied and applied for a one-year waiver, and 6, including North Carolina must make changes to come into compliance with this law. The remaining states are still not in compliance with this law. I could not in good conscience vote to add another layer of testing requirements onto states that have not been able to implement the first federal testing mandate enacted in 1994.

It was a sad day for me to oppose a bill that originally showed such promise and innovation for the teaching and achievement of our nation's children. H.R. 1, the bill that emerged from committee increased the budget of the Department of Education, an agency that has already demonstrated its inability to account for the use of its funds. Additionally, it stripped even more local control and flexibility over the use of federal money. I cannot vote for a bill that continues the status quo by expanding the role of the federal government in local education and throws even more taxpayer money to an inefficient bureaucracy like the Department of Education. I believe that parents and local education officials including principals and teachers—not bureaucrats in Washington—know what is best for our children.

If the original elements of choice, flexibility, and consolidation had remained in the bill, I could have and would have voted for it. But in its final form, the bill is nothing more than a burdensome, bureaucratic, big-government shell of its former self. I will continue to work for restoration of President Bush's balanced proposals, as this bill moves to negotiations to reconcile the House and Senate versions. Until that time, I feel that I have no choice but to do what is in the best interest of my district and the people of North Carolina by voting "no" on final passage of this particular education bill.

FUEL TAXES

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, our country faces difficult energy policy issues. Every day, people fill their gas tanks in order to get to work and support their families. For every gallon of gasoline they buy, they pay federal, state and local sales and excise taxes. Current federal policy requires taxes to be paid on the income that pays for all of those sales and excise taxes. In my view, that is double, sometimes triple, taxation. That is wrong. Tax-paying Americans should not be required to pay income taxes on taxes that must be paid. Congress should make every attempt to eliminate from our books policies that do just that.

That is why I rise today to introduce legislation that would allow all taxpayers to deduct from their income level those taxes that are paid on gasoline. This means that people would not be forced to pay income taxes on those taxes that are paid for fuel that Americans need to get to work, go to school, attend church, drive to hospitals to see hurting loved ones, and other of life's necessities.

This is not a quick fix to our energy problems—by any stretch of the imagination. It is an attempt to help give some relief to taxpayers who are forced to pay exorbitant fuel costs caused, in most part, by federal regulatory requirements. Those costs, especially in Illinois, are compounded by state and local sales taxes that rise as a percentage of the overall price of fuel instead of the per gallon excise taxes.

I believe it is wrong to ask Americans to pay income taxes on money that they pay in other taxes, whether it is a federal, state or local tax.

HONORING THE ARNOLD ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the United States Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary on June 25, 2001.

The test center is named after 5-star General Henry 'Hap' Arnold, World War II commander of the Army Air Corps, and the father of the United States Air Force. In 1944, General Arnold asked Dr. Theodore von Karman to form a scientific advisory group to chart a long-range research and development program for the Air Force. After World War II, members of this group visited Germany to view its research and development facilities. They were disturbed to find that the German scientists were years ahead of the United States in the development of aerospace technology. Fortunately for us, Germany had made these technological advances too late in the war, and had to surrender before it could take full advantage of them. Even today, it is chilling to think what might have happened if the Axis powers had been able to hold out just a little longer.

General Arnold knew that America was unlikely to be that fortunate again, and determined that in order to keep America's Air Force prepared to fight and win our nation's wars, we needed a first class flight simulation test facility. In 1949, Congress authorized \$100 million for the construction of such a facility at the Army's old Camp Forrest between Tullahoma and Manchester, Tennessee. On June 25, 1951, President Harry S. Truman himself dedicated AEDC, declaring that, "Never again with the United States ride the coat tails of other countries in the progress and development of the aeronautical art."

In the 50 years since, the world's largest and most complex collection of flight simulation test facilities had made good on that promise. AEDC's wind tunnels, jet and rocket

altitude test cells, space chambers and ballistic ranges have played a vital role in the development and sustainment of every American high performance aircraft, missile and space system in use today. Twenty-seven of the center's 59 test facilities are unique in the United States. Fourteen can be found nowhere else in the world. But what makes AEDC special can't be measured simply in nuts and bolts. It also lies in the unsurpassed quality of the engineers, scientists, technicians, craftsmen and support personnel who work there.

Thanks in part to the tireless efforts of these dedicated men and women, the Cold War that President Truman and General Arnold prepared for has been won. But now, America faces an uncertain world of emerging threats, requiring the development of an advanced American space and missile defense, and a new generation of manned and unmanned aircraft. As it has since its inception, AEDC will lead the way in the U.S. Air Force's efforts to protect American liberty by remaining the world's preeminent aerospace power.

I salute the hard work of the men and women of AEDC, both past and present, and look forward to AEDC's next 50 years as America's premier flight simulation test facility.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD THOMAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Thomas, who is retiring after 28 years as the viticulture instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College in Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Thomas is the country's leading authority on wine grape production and has introduced growing techniques that have improved the crop quality and made Sonoma County one of the premier wine grape growing regions in the world.

During a yearlong sabbatical in New Zealand and Australia in the late 1980's, Mr. Thomas studied vine trellising techniques that revolutionized wine grape growing in California. By managing the grapevine's leaf canopy and lifting the vines to expose the grapes to air and sunshine, the fruit is more flavorful and is less susceptible to disease. By utilizing the technique taught by Mr. Thomas, growers are able to produce the highest quality of grapes. Sonoma County is now considered the world leader in canopy management.

Mr. Thomas has educated and trained the majority of people who own or manage vineyards on California's North Coast. According to his own estimates, 70% of Sonoma County's vineyards are either owned or managed by one of his former students.

In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Thomas founded the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association and the Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group.

He has coordinated the wine judging at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair, the West Coast Wine Judging in Reno, Nevada and the Central Coast Wine Judging in Santa Maria, California.

Mr. Thomas lectures throughout the country on wine grape growing and also writes a monthly column for *Vineyard & Winery Management Magazine*.

Mr. Speaker, because of Mr. Thomas' innumerable contributions to wine grape growing and specifically to the industry in Sonoma County, it is fitting to honor him today and to congratulate him for his many accomplishments.

HONORING JACK MURTAUGH

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 30th, 2001 family, friends, community leaders and well-wishers will gather to congratulate Mr. Jack Murtaugh on his retirement from the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, the last 12 as its executive director.

I have known Jack for many years, and have always admired his vision to unite persons of all faiths with a common agenda of social justice. Together with other community and religious leaders in the greater Milwaukee area, Jack has worked to move our community from awareness of issues such as poverty and discrimination to a platform of action.

Jack's service to Milwaukee and Wisconsin dates back to the 1960s when he founded the Center for Community Concerns and served as its executive director in Racine in 1968. In the '70s he was appointed to then-Governor Patrick Lucey's Task Force on Offender Rehabilitation and the Task Force on the Metropolitan Problem. Jack's work and his potential were recognized in 1971 when he was named one of "Five Outstanding Young Men in Wisconsin" by the Wisconsin Jaycees.

In an effort to seek global solutions to human rights issues, Jack took a five-month sabbatical traveling alone throughout Africa, including South Africa and Kenya, and South America. He made important connections with leaders in each country and village he visited and worked with them to increase understanding and dialogue among people of different faiths from diverse races and cultures.

Jack brought those lessons back to the states. In 1982, he joined the staff of the Interfaith Conference as program Director in 1982, and was appointed vicar for human concerns for the Milwaukee Archdiocese in 1987. In 1989, Jack was named Executive Director for Interfaith, where he has expanded the presence of the Conference in the Milwaukee community, strengthened relationships internally and externally, and re-affirmed the dedication of the Conference for staff and its many volunteers.

The greater Milwaukee community will acknowledge Jack's contributions by honoring him with the 2001 Social Justice Award from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (5/01), and the 2001 Annual Philip E. Lerman Racial Justice Award from the YMCA (6/01).

Jack and his wife Lucia will continue to live in Milwaukee, and will continue to address issues of social and economic justice in defense of human dignity. I rise to commend Jack Murtaugh for his commitment to justice for all and for years of work to create compassionate care for those in need.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TAP
DANCE DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tap dancing is widely recognized as America's only original form of dance, yet for years it has been in danger of becoming a lost art. I introduced a resolution that established each May 25, as National Tap Day on September 15, 1988. As a result, people have been coming together to celebrate tap through both performance and study and examine the incredible contributions made by legendary dancers such as Howard "Sandman" Sims, the Nicholas Brothers and contemporary dancers such as Gregory Hines.

I chose May 25, as National Tap Dance Day because it is was the birthday of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Mr. Robinson is credited with bringing this unique art form to perfection. Moreover, he was genuinely talented and well known worldwide for his work in movies and contributions to the art of tap dancing on both stage and film.

Tap dancing has had an influence on other types of American art, including music, vaudeville, Broadway musical theater, and film as well as other dance forms. Presently, Savion Glover is the new young star of the tap dancing profession. He is the youngest man ever to be nominated for a Tony award for his performance. Savion has appeared with Gregory Hines and Tommy Tune on television in *Dance in America: Tap!* He was also served as an inspiration for other young tap artist like the actor Dulé Hill. However, if tap is not encouraged, it runs the risk of losing its popular support. Unless we continue our efforts to preserve tap, we are in danger of losing an art form that is an uniquely American creation.

By passing the resolution designating May 25 as National Tap Dance Day, we in Congress have focused national attention on this great art form. Moreover, people around the country have come to better appreciate tap as an important part of our cultural heritage. I am pleased to know that the enactment of National Tap Dance Day and its annual celebration has served to increase public recognition, and support not only in this country but internationally as well.

EMILY CIAK HONORED FOR ESSAY
ON FREEDOM

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Emily Ciak, a senior at Northwest Area High School in my district, for an essay on freedom that she composed for the VFW's Voice of Democracy program. For this outstanding essay, Emily placed first at the local level in VFW Anthracite Post 283 of Kingston, first place in the District 11 competition and fourth overall in the Department of Pennsylvania finals held in Harrisburg.

I would also like to thank Al Long, a member of Post 283 and chairman of the legislative committee of the Pennsylvania VFW, for bringing Emily's essay to my attention.

I am pleased to call Emily's fine work to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to insert a copy of this essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that others may read and be inspired by it as well:

I wake up in the morning to an alarm clock. I will then proceed to shower, eat breakfast, and go to school. After school I usually attend an athletic practice, drama practice, youth group band practice, youth group, or even a club meeting. On weekends I work as a grocery store cashier, and I attend church. If I have time throughout my week, I will hang out with friends, talk on the phone, or go on the Internet. What, you're probably asking, is my point?

Well, the big problem with my life and the life of most young Americans today is that we simply take our lives' freedoms for granted. I don't think about school as a privilege. I don't think about athletics as something that I'm blessed to be involved in. I don't even always think of church as an example of freedom. Why is this?

According to Webster's dictionary, "price always implies that an article in for sale; what a man will not sell he declines to put a price on." Think about that for a second. A price is only on something that is for sale. Well, if it's for sale it must be bought, right?

This is our problem. This is the missing link. We tend to forget that our freedom was bought for us. We tend to disregard the importance of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the World Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. We forget that freedom is not something that every human being is given automatically at birth. Freedom is something that needs to be bought, most times by lives. Freedom is for sale, but it is something that is not easily placed on the market.

As I go through each day, I hardly ever stop to think why I am privileged to be an American. I take it for granted that I have food on the table, a public education, and the freedom to do what my life as I choose. I think this is something I should change. It is something that Americans need to change. We need to stop our busy lives for a second and start thinking about this price of freedom.

Men and women served our country to make it into the place it is now. They fought for our country, and won for our country. Even today we still have veterans alive that have gone through the war. They know what it's like to be a true patriot, loyal to our country. They know what it's like to see their friends dying in battle next to them. They know what it feels like to have their freedom at risk. We, as the ones who do not know of a life without freedom, need to start appreciating our veterans and start appreciating our war heroes of both the past and present. We need to recognize how precious our freedom is and how at any given second it could be snatched from our hands. We need to give credit where credit is due and stop forgetting that life is a gift.

Now if our freedom was bought for a price, and this price was war and death, then wouldn't it be great if our freedom was forever? If something is bought for a price, it can just as easily be given away or re-sold. Considering that our freedom could be snatched away from us brings up an important responsibility issue. We, as citizens of the United States of America, have the responsibility to make sure our freedom will last. We need to make every effort to stand up for ourselves in the times of danger. We need to take action when our freedom is in jeopardy and we have to remember how precious our freedom really is.

Just as easily as a priced item can be re-sold or given away, it can also just as easily

be preserved and kept by one owner for a very long time and passed on from generation to generation in his/her family line. This, America, correlates with our own duty regarding freedom. We must pass on this gift of freedom that our previous generations have fought for and that our present generations are now preserving for us and for our future generations. We need to teach the younger generations about the importance of our freedom and about the importance of its preservation. Just as freedom is not a birth-right, it is also not something that American babies being born today, or at any other time, automatically recognize as a gift to keep. We are the ones that need to pass on this torch of freedom and loyalty to our country. We need to set the precedent and be the example. Freedom does have a high price, and all must know about this.

Yes, I will still wake up to an alarm. I will still attend school. I will play in my youth group's band. However, I have now realized that I must appreciate the fact that I can freely participate in such activities and show others the value of freedom. Thank you, servicemen and servicewomen for allowing me to live a life of freedom; and thank you for paying the price for this freedom.

CHANCE C. MELTON, JR., HERO OF
THE PACIFIC THEATER

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, as Memorial Day draws near, I want to remember one of my constituents, Chance C. Melton, Jr. of Gaffney, South Carolina, whose valor helped save hundreds of sailors from dying in the Pacific.

Chance Melton served in the United States Navy aboard the *USS Pittsburgh* during the latter stages of World War II. During his duty in the Pacific theater, Chance Melton helped rescue survivors of the aircraft carrier *USS Franklin* after it was bombed by the Japanese.

The *Franklin* was attacked early on the morning of March 19, 1945, in enemy waters, shortly before it was to launch an attack on the Japanese mainland. The attack killed 725 men, injured 200 more, and forced roughly a thousand overboard into the Pacific. Chance Melton, as a crew member on the *USS Pittsburgh*, helped pull dozens of sailors out of the water, and later helped as the *Pittsburgh* towed the *Franklin*, which miraculously was still afloat, for three days to get the carrier out of Japanese waters. Melton and his crew mates were under enemy attack throughout their operation, but they achieved their mission. They started the *Franklin* on its long but successful journey back to the Brooklyn Naval Yard. This was the first rescue in naval history to pull a disabled ship out of enemy waters.

For his service, Chance Melton was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal with three Silver Stars, and World War II Victory Medal. He served four years in the Naval Reserve before leaving military service. Chance became successful in textiles, and remains a leader in his community. He helped establish the Cherokee County Veterans' Museum, and has served as Commander of American Legion Post 109 since 1995. At age 85, Chance Melton is one sailor who is still going strong. I am pleased to

honor his valor and unstinting service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CREATE
EQUITABLE RETIREMENT
ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY RE-
SERVE TECHNICIANS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill that would provide comparable retirement eligibility for Military Reserve Technicians as applies to those on active duty.

For years, Congress has passed legislation on behalf of active duty service members and active duty retirees. Sometimes, full-time military reserve employees enjoy collateral benefits from this legislation. But often, they are not included. We are talking about Guard and Reserve employees who come to work in uniform each day; they are assigned to their military reserve unit and meet all military standards. They perform comparable, usually identical, military functions but in a civil service status. These are the employees that make our Guard and Reserve such a "good deal" for our country. Our reserve units can perform virtually all of the missions as their active duty counterparts at a fraction of the price because these dedicated full-time employees are available to provide continuity between unit training assembly, also known as drill, weekends.

Our Armed Forces are undergoing a thorough analysis and transformation to insure we are able and equipped to meet the evolving national security needs of tomorrow. It is obvious that the Guard and Reserve will continue to have vital missions and roles in this transformation. The Air Force has fully integrated the Guard and Reserve into its Aerospace Expeditionary Forces and cannot perform their scheduled rotations without them. The Army is studying the prospects of involving National Guard components in a more substantial role in Homeland Defense as recommended in the Hart-Rudman study.

Our hometown militia is here to stay, and so we must maintain benefits that will entice new young people to invest their future in the Guard and Reserves. One way to do this is to offer an attractive retirement package, similar to that of active duty members. This bill will do just that. Instead of having to wait until age 55 for a full civil service annuity, full-time military reserve technicians could retire at age 50. Or, once they have served over 20 years in civil service status, the number of years for retirement eligibility on active duty, they can retire at any age without a reduction in annuity.

It will continue to be challenging to recruit and retain young people into the armed forces. These challenges are not lost on the full-time reserve technician workforce. In many ways it will be worse, because the Reserves typically only recruit full-time staff from among

those already in the service. In other words, they have a smaller pool from which to draw. It is our responsibility to make sure the Guard and Reserves remain strong and vital, and one way to do this is to invest in their human capital.

The legislation I am introducing today is important not only to our current military reserve technicians who may meet the new retirement eligibility, but also to those new prospects who are evaluating employment alternatives as they decide with whom to invest their future. Make it a priority today to strengthen our Guard and Reserves of the future.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility and choice, so that no child is left behind:

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, but I must point out some sections that I believe place students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) at a disadvantage. I have been contacted by several organizations with an extreme interest in these provisions of the legislation, and I would like to point out some of the concerns we share. Hopefully, when Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate meet in Conference, these provisions of this historic legislation can be addressed to ensure complete fairness to all of America's children.

I oppose the requirement in Title I and Title III for parental consent for English Language Instruction. I would like to point out that current law already includes a requirement that schools notify parents about their child's participation in bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. The provision in H.R. 1 goes further and requires every local educational agency (OEA) to obtain written parental consent before LEAs could serve limited English proficient children with appropriate bilingual instruction. In contract, LEAs using English only instruction would not have to seek such consent. In reality, this parental consent requirement would create a disincentive for schools to serve LEP students.

Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act also proposes to consolidate the current Bilingual Education Act (BEA), the Emergency Immigrant Education Program (EIEP), and the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) into one formula driven State grant. Addressing the unique needs of limited English proficiency students has reached critical levels. The approach taken in H.R. 1, consolidating

these three programs, is counterproductive and does nothing to assist LEAs in providing adequate services for LEP and newly arrived immigrant students. I oppose the consolidation of these programs and urge the Conferees to maintain each as a separate and distinct entity.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Title III also requires every LEA to design programs that assess LEP students in English who have attended school in the United States for three or more consecutive school years in reading or language arts, and if these students have not reached proficiency in English, the LEA will face economic penalties. Of course, Mr. Speaker, this will lead to LEAs proclaiming proficiency and removing these students from these programs whether they have learned English or not. This imposition of an arbitrary three year instructional time limit is ill advised and intrudes on the LEAs ability to help LEP students succeed. As we all realize, all students, including LEP students, come to school with diverse needs, and at different

In closing, I again want to point out my support for this legislation. However, if we truly do hope to "leave no child behind," we must look seriously at the provisions dealing with limited English proficiency students. I am hoping and trusting that the Conferees will make the right decisions on these important provisions of H.R. 1.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MCCORMICK

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry McCormick for his 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Los Angeles as a news broadcaster with KTLA-TV.

Truly a multi-faceted, multi-talented, media professional, Larry has worked for over 40 years in the field of broadcasting—33 in television news. Joining KTLA in 1971 as a weatherman, Larry now serves as anchor of the station's "News at Ten Weekend Edition," and as weekday feature anchor for "News at Ten." He also co-hosts the highly-regarded "Making It: Minority Success Stories," seen every Sunday morning.

As the first African American news anchor in Los Angeles, Larry has served as a role-model for a generation of television journalists. His years of experience and reputation for honesty earned him the prestigious "Governor's Award," the highest honor presented annually by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Over his long journalistic career, he has also been nominated for many Emmy Awards and has been the recipient of a number of Golden Mike Awards for news excellence.

Although very busy with career and family, Larry has always made time to give back to the city that has been the starting point of his success. Every year, this dedicated individual hosts the local United Negro College Fund and Muscular Dystrophy Association telethons and serves as "quiz master" for the Los Angeles Unified School District Academic Decathlon "Superquizzes." Emceeding nearly 2,000 programs in the greater Los Angeles community over the past 30 years, Larry also serves as a member of the board of directors for numerous community, as well as professional organizations. In addition, he has been the recipient of over 100 awards, citations and honors from government, civic and community organizations for his tireless devotion to the people of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2001, colleagues, friends and family will gather for a special evening to salute Larry McCormick's 30 years with KTLA. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this exceptional individual for his outstanding contributions to the broadcast industry and his ongoing commitment to serve the communities of Greater Los Angeles.

POLITICAL CRISIS IN INDONESIA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, recent political crises in Indonesia underscore the difficult challenges facing the development of democracy in that nation and region. The spectrum of issues includes human rights violations in Aceh, Irian Jaya, Maluku, Poso, and Padang, the Trisakti shooting, corruption cases, mass rapes of Chinese women in May 1998, and the upcoming parliamentary actions against President Wahid. At this moment, democracy in its infancy is being seriously challenged in Indonesia. No great principle or ideology, however, survives without facing serious challenges—challenges that can be surmounted with great sacrifice and leadership. Democracy is a principle for which it is worth fighting. And, I trust that the people of Indonesia and their leaders will continue to make every effort to see that democracy is established firmly so that the Indonesian people will enjoy true prosperity and peace.

Last June I led a delegation to Indonesia and shared with President Wahid deep concern about the presence of Laskar Jihad in the Maluku and the widespread violence and bloodshed perpetrated by this group. The President indicated he had ordered Laskar Jihad to leave and stay out—an encouraging sign for the suffering people in Maluku. Several weeks ago reports detailed the arrest of the leader of Laskar Jihad, Mr. Jafar Umar Thalib. Many hoped that the turmoil and killings in the Maluku would finally come to an end. Important progress has been made among the Moluccans themselves, both the Muslims and the Christians, with reconciliation, rehabilitation and the rebuilding programs for people in the Maluku. This reflects a foundation and strong desire for the Moluccan people to reconcile without interference from militant and extremist groups such as Laskar Jihad.

Unfortunately, continued reports from Indonesia about the arrest and then release of

leaders promoting violence, particularly the release of Mr. Jafar Thalib from police custody, have discouraged many within Indonesia. There are widespread implications of the release of an individual who seems to only promote violence, bloodshed, and division. Mr. Thalib's, and other militant leaders' desires undermine the establishment and continued development of democracy, civil society, freedom, and peace for the people of Indonesia. In addition, the proposals of some groups to impose Sharia law on the entire nation raises great concerns. One is hard-pressed to find a country anywhere in the world in which democracy and Sharia law coexist.

The unrest and strife resulted in \$90 billion in foreign investment leaving Indonesia in the year 2000. Yet, the international business community hopes to return investment to Indonesia and increase business and therefore jobs for local economies. Lack of rule of law and civil society create instability—an environment that threatens any economic growth. Businesses will find other markets in which to grow in Asia.

I, and many other Members of Congress, fully support the establishment and development of democracy in Indonesia. Civil society and stability will create a lasting atmosphere in which the beauty, diversity, and resources of Indonesia and the Indonesian people can grow and be enjoyed in peace and prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE KOKOMO, INDIANA POST OFFICE FOR FORMER CON- GRESSMAN ELWOOD "BUD" HIL- LIS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the most distinguished men ever to represent the state of Indiana in the House of Representatives by introducing legislation to name the post office in Kokomo, Indiana for my good friend, former Congressman Bud Hillis.

Bud honorably and effectively served the people of Indiana's 5th District in the House of Representatives from 1971 to 1986. During his time in the Congress he was a reasonable and authoritative voice on matters of national security, trade, and veterans issues. A graduate of Indiana's Culver Military Academy, he enlisted to fight in World War II at the age of 18. He served as an infantryman in the European Theater for 27 months, leaving active duty as a first lieutenant. After the war, Bud attended Indiana University and the Indiana University School of Law. He went on to practice law in Howard County, Indiana, and served as Chairman of the county bar association.

Before his election to Congress in November of 1970, he served two terms in the Indiana House of Representatives. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, Bud was known for a unique combination of genteel civility and firm resolve. During his years in Washington, he was noted for his leadership on several issues of vital importance to Hoosiers and to the nation as a whole.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Bud was instrumental in the develop-

ment and deployment of the M-1 tank and the preservation of Grissom Air Force Reserve Base. He took a serious interest in the automobile industry as a founding member of the Congressional Auto Task Force and was a leading advocate of the rescue of Chrysler. He was also a strong force in the Congressional Steel Caucus as Vice President of the executive committee. Bud also took seriously our nation's commitments to our veterans. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he was a leader in caring for our country's veterans, and was instrumental in the construction of the outpatient clinic at Crown Point.

Mr. Speaker, Bud Hillis has a distinguished record of service to his country and to the people he represented here in the House of Representatives. The dedication of the Kokomo post office, would be a fitting tribute for such an honorable and accomplished man.

HONORING LESLIE BELCHER SOWELL

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my chief of staff, Leslie Belcher Sowell, who is leaving the service of Oklahoma's Third Congressional District this past Thursday, May 24, 2001 after many, many years as a member of my staff. Leslie is a multi-talented young woman whom I have watched grow and mature from a young congressional intern into a true professional as my top congressional advisor and most trusted political assistant.

Leslie grew up in Chandler, Oklahoma, in the Third District. She is a graduate of Chandler High School and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Leslie first joined my staff as a congressional intern. Later, after she graduated from college, Leslie joined my office full-time as a staff assistant and receptionist. It wasn't long before Leslie earned a promotion to legislative assistant, and she eventually became one of my top assistants for the House Appropriations Committee. Her assistance as invaluable to my efforts to help the economic and job growth of the Third District.

When I left Congress after 1990, Leslie returned to OSU where she served on the staff of the university's government relations office. She returned to Capitol Hill a few years later to work as legislative director for my successor in the Third District, Rep. Bill Brewster, D-Oklahoma.

In 1996, when I decided to return to Congress, Leslie again joined me, this time as my chief of staff and top political advisor. In addition, she served as my legislative director and press secretary during the initial period of my first term back in Congress when we were organizing my new staff.

In 1997, during consideration of a major tax bill, Leslie became an underlying catalyst in my efforts to make sure former Native American lands in Oklahoma were eligible for tax incentives created to encourage economic development on Native American reservations. Leslie helped me guide this hallmark legislation through the Ways and Means Committee,

through the full House, and through final passage. This legislation has meant more to economic growth and job development in Oklahoma than any efforts in recent history. Without Leslie Belcher Sowell's efforts, it would have been nearly impossible for me to see this legislation passed into law. Her last action in our office was making a phone call trying to get this process extended until 2009.

Leslie has always shared my goal of improving the economic conditions in rural Oklahoma, which is why she has been such a perfect fit for my staff. Leslie has been dedicated and committed to my efforts whether I was Democrat, Independent, or Republican.

I have had the privilege of watching Leslie grow in her career, seeing her marry the love of her life, taking on her most challenging and rewarding job ever—becoming a mother. Leslie is a dear friend, and I thank her for her service to the Third District, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.

Leslie: I will miss you, and the Third District will miss you. May God bless you and your family. I tip my hat to you, and thank you for your loyal friendship and a job well done.

**PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENERGY
POLICY**

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, for months now, people in our area and all over the country have been upset with the ever-increasing cost of gasoline, and rightfully so. At a time when we are facing one of the most serious energy shortages in history I am especially interested in President Bush's plan for a national energy policy. I have strongly supported a long range energy policy for our country.

I believe the President's energy plan has many good points including a \$2 billion coal initiative and increased use of reformulated gasolines using ethanol. However, I believe his proposal can be improved upon. For example, we have the ability now, to use reformulated gasoline in a much greater capacity. In addition, Congress needs to ensure the President's new Clean Coal Power Initiative is adequately funded. Coal, which we have an abundance of in Southwestern Illinois, is an excellent alternative use of fuel. I think the President's coal initiative is a great idea that can be expanded to include incentives for new and improved clean coal technologies. We can and should use this abundant resource in an environmentally sound way. Coal usage will greatly reduce our dependence on foreign oil and avoid a band-aid approach, like drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, excluding California and Hawaii, my home state of Illinois is faced with the highest gas prices in the country. Cutting gas prices now is essential! This can be done in a variety of ways: opening marginal oil wells, producing more ethanol and ensuring oil companies are not making record breaking profits from increased gas pricing.

I have also started hearing from many farmers who want to hear more about the role ethanol will play in the President's plan. I was very disappointed to learn that Vice President CHENEY does not believe alternative fuels are

a viable option right now. CHENEY stated "Years down the road alternative fuels may become a great deal more plentiful. But we are not yet in any position to stake our economy and our own way of life on that possibility." We can and should use alternative fuels now! In 2000 alone the ethanol industry expanded production by 155 million gallons and is on course to increase by an additional 400 million gallons in 2001. Each day more than 5 million gallons of ethanol are blended into about 65 million gallons of gasoline—adding critical volume to a tight gasoline market and reducing the pressure on price. Ethanol is far less expensive than MTBE—refiners could replace \$1.50 of MTBE with 50 cents of ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will ensure improvements are made to the President's plan that will allow for immediate relief and assure our constituents that we will not continue the upward spiral of higher gas prices or greater dependence on foreign oil year after year.

**TRIBUTE TO PROVIDIAN
FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely honored and proud to rise today to salute Providian Financial Corporation for its selection as this year's Quality Cup service industry award winner, as named by the Rochester Institute of Technology and USA Today.

On learning of Providian's selection, I felt a special sense of pride in knowing that this company is based in the Bay Area and that thousands of its employees live and work in my district.

Providian is an outstanding corporate citizen. In my own district, Providian partnered with the NFL Oakland Raiders to raise more than \$40,000 last year for a children's education center. The company's dedication to the community translates to its business practices as seen by this recognition of its high quality customer service.

Providian also deserves commendation serving people along every point of the economic spectrum. The company believes that providing access to credit helps people build better lives. And, it works hard to help people obtain and manage the credit they need.

To ensure quality service, Providian records every sales call. It has empowered its customer representatives to resolve complaints on the first call. It has put in place new systems to help customers protect their credit records with last-minute payments by phone and the Internet. With initiatives like these, Providian has made service its hallmark.

Remarkably, Providian has implemented these changes and recorded a steep drop in complaints at the same time it has dramatically increased the number of customers it serves.

I hope my colleagues in the House, and all Americans, will join me in saluting Providian for a job well done. I hope that all of corporate America will look at their example of being a good corporate citizen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, due to an error on my part, on May 23 I erroneously voted in the affirmative for the Cox amendment to H.R. 1, rollcall No. 143.

My intention was to have voted in the negative for the Cox amendment to H.R. 1, rollcall No. 143.

DETROIT'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Detroit and its residents on the 300th anniversary of the city's founding. As the oldest city in the Midwest, Detroit is the place where Henry Ford made the automobile affordable for all people through the implementation and perfection of mass production. I want to thank Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK for introducing H. Con. Res. 80.

The city of Detroit also provided assistance for more than 40,000 individuals eagerly awaiting freedom as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Additionally, the city of Detroit has been coined the "Arsenal of Democracy", as Motor City residents bravely gave their services to our nation, contributing tremendously to the United States' victory in World War II.

With this year marking the 300th anniversary of Detroit's founding, it has grown into the tenth most populous city in the United States. Detroit has put the world on wheels, and exerts global influence in automobile manufacturing and trade. Furthermore, Detroit is an academic and cultural epicenter, and also exhibits a rich sports tradition. Many musical greats call Detroit home, and it was in this great city where the Motown Sound was born.

I wish to extend to each resident my hearty congratulations on Detroit's 300th anniversary. Their dedication and hard work makes Detroit a city to be commended on its important contributions to the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the United States.

**ANOTHER MINNESOTA MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS STORY**

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the front page of the Wall Street Journal yesterday announced the Food and Drug Administration's approval of a break-through medical device produced by St. Jude Medical, and company located in my home state of Minnesota.

St. Jude is part of Minnesota's Medical Alley, made up of 300 medical technology companies in the Twin Cities area, which has led the innovation explosion in health care. Increasingly, new medical devices are saving

lives, improving the quality of life and reducing health care costs for Americans.

Congress can be proud of its work over the past several years to reform the FDA so Americans can get access to life-saving medical technologies. However, much more remains to be done, including reforming the way Medicare reimburses seniors for these health care technologies.

As co-chair of the House Medical Technology Caucus and a member of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, I encourage my colleagues to join me in promoting reforms that will make technologies like St. Jude's "sutureless" heart surgery device available to seniors and the other Americans who desperately need them.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 24, 2001]

NEW TOOLS MAY MAKE HEART-BYPASS
SURGERY QUICKER AND LESS RISKY
(By Ron Winslow)

BERNE, SWITZERLAND.—As Thierry Carrel stands over his patient in operating room No. 1 at University Hospital here, he may be poised at the threshold of a new era in heart surgery.

For more than three decades, surgeons have used needle and thread to sew new blood vessels into patients during coronary-bypass operations, which are typically performed through a massive incision in the chest. The vessels are used to reroute blood around blockages in the arteries that feed the heart. And the procedure's success hinges largely on the surgeon's skill at stitching them into place.

But at the moment, Dr. Carrel isn't using his sewing talents. Instead, he takes a device loaded with a vein, inserts it into a small hole he has just cut in the patient's aorta and pushes a button. Click. The device, which resembles a long-handled screwdriver, releases a tiny web of wires that unfolds to form a star-shaped rivet. In less than 10 seconds, Dr. Carrel has attached the vein to the aorta mechanically. That compares with the three to five minutes it might have taken him to make the same attachment with stitches.

FOREIGN DEBUT

Dr. Carrel is one of a handful of surgeons in Europe and Canada who have used the device during the past several months on a total of about 1,000 patients. St. Jude Medical Inc., the U.S. company that makes the product, rolled it out quietly in Europe last fall, but has largely kept it under wraps. Now, that is about to change.

Today, St. Jude plans to announce that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the device for use in the U.S. That makes the St. Paul, Minn., company the early front-runner in an emerging race to equip doctors to perform "sutureless" bypass surgery. If surgeons embrace the new technology, it could transform the procedure by triggering wider use of techniques designed to make the operation easier on the patient and reduce the incidence of serious side effects.

St. Jude calls its new product the aortic connector. While it is designed to make just one type of the various critical attachments that bypass surgery requires, the company is planning to introduce a full line of connectors over the next year or two, aiming to automate the entire vessel-grafting process. The typical bypass operation involves three or four vessel grafts in which a doctor performs five to seven individual sewing procedures.

NOT GOING TO FLY ANYMORE

As the first to the market, St. Jude faces several hurdles in winning acceptance of its

device. Among them: the added cost of using it and the long-term track record of conventional heart surgery, which is impressive enough that many doctors may feel little need to meddle with it. But there also are compelling arguments for heart surgeons to adopt sutureless connectors. Leading the list is the growing push to make bypass surgery—one of medicine's most invasive operations—more patient-friendly.

"For 35 years, we've been doing by-pass surgery the same way and gotten away with it," says Hani Shennib, a heart surgeon at McGill University Health Center in Montreal. "That's not going to fly anymore. Patients really want to have the same outcome as surgery but with procedures that are a lot less invasive."

The most promising strategy along those lines is beating-heart surgery, in which the surgeon operates on the heart as it continues to pump blood. The goal is to avoid putting the patient on a heart-lung machine, or the "pump," as surgeons call it. Time on the pump, which takes over the heart's function so surgeons can operate on a still organ, has been associated with complications arising from bypasses.

A MOVING TARGET

But the beating-heart technique, which emerged in the mid-1990s, is used in only about 20% of the more than 700,000 bypass surgeries performed world-wide each year. The main reason: the painstaking work of suturing bypass vessels into place—which surgeons call "the anastomosis"—is much harder to do on a beating heart. Devices that automate the process could make beating-heart surgery much less challenging and potentially more popular.

"The only reason you put a patient on a pump is to accommodate the guy tying the knots," says St. Jude's Daniel J. Sullivan, the aortic connector's chief inventor. "We're the first ones to go after the sewing process as an issue."

In addition, proponents say, mechanical connectors could make bypass surgery safer by reducing the risk of stroke and other neurological side effects that recent studies have linked to the operation. In February, Duke University researchers reported that 42% of bypass patients suffer such problems as loss of memory, confusion and inability to pay attention for as long as five years after the surgery. About 3% of bypass patients suffer a debilitating stroke as a result of the procedure. Some doctors say a connector could help doctors avoid clamping the aorta, a step in the surgery that is believed to be a key cause of such brain damage.

Another potential benefit: consistency of surgical results. "Hand-sewn bypass grafts are irregular. Every one is a little different," says Robert Emery, a Minneapolis heart surgeon who served as a paid consultant to St. Jude in developing its device. "With this thing, every one is the same."

St. Jude isn't alone in seeing a big opportunity for such technology. Johnson & Johnson, in a venture with Bypass Inc., of Israel, has tested a "suture-less anastomotic device" in small-scale human trials. J&J says it has begun discussions with the FDA about what would be required to gain approval. Tyco International Ltd.'s U.S. Surgical unit and Abbott Laboratories' Perclose unit both are developing mechanical connectors, as are several smaller closely held companies.

"A lot of people think this is going to be a big deal in coronary surgery," says Dr. Emery.

In the U.S., St. Jude plans to sell its new device only to hospitals whose surgeons have been trained in its use. As a result, the company, which had \$1.18 billion in revenue last year, is projecting to sell only a few million

dollars worth of the connectors this year. In years ahead, St. Jude hopes the devices will become a major contributor to its revenue and profit growth.

The St. Jude product includes a cutter that makes a round hole in the aorta for attaching the replacement vessel, rather than the jagged opening left by the punch that surgeons now typically use for that job. The wire rivet that the device deploys is made of a stable metal and is designed to expand slightly to fill the hole as it clamps the vessel to the aorta.

But St. Jude must persuade surgeons that the device will match or improve on the success rate of conventional bypass surgery. Death rates from the procedure are only about 3% at most hospitals. For the vast majority of patients, the surgery is an effective treatment for angina, the severe chest pain caused by blocked coronary arteries. And it could take several years to show whether mechanical vein attachments are as durable as sewn ones.

Even the product's fans say that its cost could be a deterrent, because issuers usually pay doctors and hospitals a fixed amount for bypass operations. St. Jude plans to charge between \$400 and \$450 for the single-use devices. Assuming a full line of connectors becomes available, that could add more than \$2,000 to the cost of a typical bypass operation. St. Jude says that shorter operating times and other savings will partly offset the additional cost.

A device that diminishes the value of a surgeon's suturing skills could be hard to sell to some members of a profession in which "good hands" are a hallmark of stature. "Doing the anastomosis is the essence of our specialty," says David Fullerton, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. During his decade of surgical training, Dr. Fullerton says he would hone his technique during off hours by tying surgical knots in his shoelaces, and by slicing open chicken breasts and sewing them up before popping them on the grill.

"For most of us, it took so much effort to acquire these skills, we're reluctant to give them up," he adds.

That isn't to say that St. Jude's device will banish sutures from the operating room anytime soon. For one thing, the new connector is designed only for attaching saphenous veins—replacement blood vessels that are harvested from a patient's leg—and then only to attach the end of the vein upstream from the blockage being bypassed. For now, surgeons who use the device will need to stitch the other end of the vein to an artery on the heart, below the obstruction.

St. Jude is at work on a second device to make this lower, or distal, connection. That's a trickier task for the surgeon because there the diameter of the leg vein is typically much wider than the vessel it is being connected to, requiring special care to make sure the anastomosis doesn't leak. In addition, that graft, which typically can take a surgeon 10 minutes to 15 minutes to complete, often must be connected to harder-to-reach areas on the side or back of the heart.

In Berne, Dr. Carrel and his colleague Friedrich Eckstein have used St. Jude's distal connector in about 20 patients so far, with encouraging results. St. Jude says it hopes to have this second device on the market in the U.S. by mid-2002. Amount other things, it is designed to eliminate the problem of mismatched vessel diameters.

Another model the company is developing

pumping chamber. Still another version of the St. Jude is counting on the line to transform it into a major player in the cardiac-surgery market. The company has long dominated the heart-valve market, and it also sells devices that combat heart-rhythm irregularities. But in the late 1990s, its executives launched a search for new technologies that promised future growth.

That search led to St. Jude's surprise announcement a year and a half ago that it was acquiring Vascular Science Inc., a closely held Minneapolis company that developed the connector under Mr. Sullivan's leadership. St. Jude paid \$80 million for VSI and agreed to pay an additional \$20 million if the newly acquired unit met certain development goals. But though the acquisition substantially diluted its earnings, St. Jude largely kept mum about what it was buying.

"We didn't want Guidant, Medtronic, Boston Scientific and every cab driver in New York making these things," says Terry L. Shepherd, St. Jude's president and chief executive, referring to rivals in the heart-device business.

Some doctors who are impressed by the device believe it won't win broad acceptance until a distal connector is available, so that surgeons can do both ends of their grafts without sutures.

However, St. Jude believes there is a robust market for the aortic connector alone, thanks in large part to its potential for reducing neurological side effects from surgery. During conventional bypass operations, when the heart is stopped, doctors clamp off the aorta to keep blood from backing up into the heart. But in patients with clogged coronary arteries, the aorta if often diseased too. That means its lining is layered with plaque, much like a rusty pipe. When the aorta is clamped, some of this gunk can be dislodged. When the clamp is released, the debris is picked up in the blood stream and can get carried to the brain.

"You get an old guy whose vessels look like a Drano commercial, and sometimes you hear an audible crunch" when the clamp is applied says David Stump, a researcher at Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, N.C., who has studied the neurological side effects of heart surgery.

Material dislodged by clamps is believed to be one of the chief causes of brain-related side effects in bypass patients. In extreme cases, it can cause a major stroke, or even death. Just how serious and lasting the effects are depends on where in the brain the debris ends up, says Dr. Stump.

During beating-heart surgery, blood continues to flow through the aorta. But doctors use what they call a side-bite clamp to pinch off a portion of the vessel to stabilize the site for stitching. That, too, entails a risk of dislodging debris, and other complications. But with the connector, doctors will be able to connect vessels quickly enough to make such clamps unnecessary.

"The first and immediate impact of the St. Jude device is that you don't have to put a clamp on the aorta," says Michael Mack, a Dallas heart surgeon with no financial connection to the company. "That eliminates a potential source of stroke."

Whether that will prompt widespread use of the device is hard to gauge. Neurological problems can be caused by factors other than clamps, and St. Jude doesn't have any data as yet to demonstrate whether its device indeed cuts the risk of stroke or cognitive impairments. But with the neurological issue getting fresh attention, many doctors may not feel inclined to wait for hard data. "If you have a patient with a brain problem after an [otherwise] uncomplicated operation, that is disastrous," says Dr. Carrel, the Swiss heart surgeon.

Five years ago, the growing Sullivan of surgeons, a small group of engineers started thinking about the connector, their goal was to develop technology for doing bypass surgery through the same type of catheters used in balloon angioplasty. In the angioplasty procedure, a balloon-tipped catheter is threaded through a small incision and into the heart, then inflated to open a blocked artery. But early on, it became clear that using sutures to attach vessel grafts via catheter wouldn't work. That set off the plan to develop a mechanical connector for conventional bypass surgery.

Still, Mr. Sullivan and others believe that the new technology will lay the groundwork for their original plan, eventually enabling doctors to do bypass surgery without cracking open the patient's chest.

MEMORIAL DAY 2001

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share some thoughts, as we gather this weekend around our congressional districts to commemorate all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us in the name of liberty.

It is appropriate that we take time out of our busy lives to remember all those whose fates are still unknown, and to thank all those who continue to carry our Nation's torch of freedom on the battlefield, on the seas, and in the air, throughout the world, so that we in America may continue to enjoy the full fruits of our liberties . . .

Memorial Day is a time for all Americans to honor our fallen heroes, our Veterans and our dedicated service men and women who are serving in peacekeeping missions in troubled areas throughout the world.

On Memorial Day, I will be participating in numerous Veterans observances throughout my 20th Congressional District, including the Castle Point VA Hospital, the American Legion Post #199 Memorial Day Parade; and the Memorial Day Parade at the Village of Florida by Post #1250.

Other events include the dedication of the Frederic Malek Tennis Courts at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Frederic Malek, a West Point graduate, 1959, served as an airborne ranger attached to the Special Forces in Vietnam. Mr. Malek continued to serve his country in key roles for three presidents as Deputy Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget and as Director of the 1990 Summit of Major Industrialization.

Historian Barbara Tuchman stated: "War is the unfolding of miscalculations . . ."

Remembering our heroes of the past, reminds us not to make any miscalculations that could lead to any future war:

Miscalculations . . . of our being perceived as being weak; of allowing our defenses to atrophy; of neglecting America's best interests; of ignoring the needs of our Veterans and those who continue to serve today.

Our 107th Congress, under the leadership of President Bush, is working to ensure that our Veterans will have the support they deserve . . .

In the FY 2002 budget there are significant increases in spending for Veterans programs, including a 16-percent increase in mandatory spending, and in new funds for the G.I. bill.

In March, the House passed H.R. 811, the Veterans Hospitals Emergency Repair Act, authorizing funds to repair the V.A.'s medical facilities, and, by a unanimous vote, the House passed the Veterans Survivor Benefits Improvements Act, expanding life insurance benefits for the spouses and children of our Veterans.

Along with our House Veterans Committee Chairman, Chris Smith, we are working to move forward with the 21st century Montgomery G.I. Bill Enhancement Act, increasing the education benefit for service members and Veterans.

Moreover, I've introduced the American Gold Star Parents Annuity Act, creating a new annuity for our gold star parents.

And finally, just this week, the House and Senate passed legislation, expediting the construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington, a fitting and long overdue tribute to our Nation's World War II Veterans.

In the words of President Teddy Roosevelt, "A man who is good enough to give his blood for his country, is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards" . . .

To our Nation's Veterans, I send my thanks and pledge to remain committed to their cause and general welfare.

In their spirit, on this Memorial Day, let us rededicate ourselves to the men and women, who worked and died together, so that our Nation may remain free and continue to stand as a beacon of liberty for the entire world.

To all our Veterans we say thank you and God bless.

THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: IS IT ANY LONGER WORTH SEEKING MEMBERSHIP?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the editorial following from the May 23, 2001 edition of the Omaha World-Herald raises very important and pertinent questions about the relevancy of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) upon which the United States recently lost its membership. As this member said to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday during his meeting with the House Committee on International Relations, the UNHCR increasingly seems to have become a haven for some countries with the worst human rights records in order to ward off criticism and further manned by other countries which are all too willing to table the consideration of resolutions concerning countries with such human rights records because their less than courageous vote may avoid the loss of export markets.

Mr. Speaker, as this member said to the Secretary General and House colleagues perhaps the major emphasis of the Congress and the United States is to demand a fundamental re-orientation of the UNHCR and to find other

ways to use American resources and clout in the advancement of human rights.

[From the Omaha World-Herald]

U.N. ENTITY COURTS IRRELEVANCE

It's been interesting to note the reactions of various groups of Americans to a U.N. committee's vote to remove the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

A writer for the liberal Nation magazine used the incident to go off on a riff about America the Arrogant. "A little more self-criticism and a lot less self-righteousness would go a long way," he wrote in a passage the irony of which is compounded by the fact that U.S. reelection hopes were aborted by such humble, self-effacing nations as France and China.

Another columnist suggested that maybe America was being punished for its Cold War practice of backing unsavory dictatorships that happened to be anti-communist. If so, that would be a double standard, too, considering what China was up to during some of those same Cold War years.

The New York Times editorial page said the Bush Administration was caught by surprise, apparently because it thought it had the votes locked up. The Times appropriately recommended that the administration find out who betrayed it. Knowing who broke promises of support may be useful later, the Times suggested.

The Washington Post, forthrightly torpedoing Sen. John Kerry's approving claim that the action was related to U.S. rejection of the Kyoto Protocols, pointed out that China has been steamed because of American criticism of that country's abysmal human

rights record. The Post said the United States was done in by China, Cuba and French diplomats who were trying to curry favor with African dictators. The Arab world also resents the United States for siding with Israel in a number of U.N. confrontations.

Additional action by the subcommittee a few days ago provided insight into the prevailing thought process. Having denied continued membership to the United States, some members of the voting panel have turned their attention to private organizations that maintain United Nations accreditation to promote human rights. The Washington Times reported that some of these groups are now in danger of losing their credentials.

They include Freedom House, founded by Eleanor Roosevelt to monitor freedom around the world, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which tracks down and exposes perpetrators of the Holocaust who have tried to hide their past.

The time is ripe, it seems to us, for the little boy to stand up and say that the emperor has no clothes. If the likes of Cuba and China, or haters of Israel, are setting the moral tone in the dealings of this commission, there can be no moral tone to speak of, and serious-minded diplomats lower themselves to take its yammerings seriously.

Generations of Americans have been raised with the notion that the United States, by failing to get on board the League of Nations in 1920, weakened an institution that might have prevented World War II. Accordingly, active participation in the United Nations, the League's successor, has been regarded a

sort of sacred responsibility since 1945, as well it should continue to be.

And, indeed, the U.N. has done considerable good, with its peacekeeping and relief operations as well as its provision of a forum for talking about things—including human rights—that in earlier decades might have ignited conflict.

However, Americans shouldn't expect that their interests will always coincide with those of the global organization and all its various commissions, agencies and committees. We and our government should be prepared to accommodate divergences, using whatever means are consistent with our national interest and, secondarily, the interests of the world community.

What happened on the Civil Rights Commission, though, was not a divergence of interests, as that term is commonly used. It was more like a wholehearted plunge into irrelevance. This is not a situation that calls for American self-loathing. Until the people who are driving the commission regain their moral bearings, to heck with them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 126, I was detained due to flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."